

Rv Life

a lifestyle magazine

August 2009 Vol. 26, Issue 8 www.rvlife.com

UTAH'S HERITAGE HIGHWAY

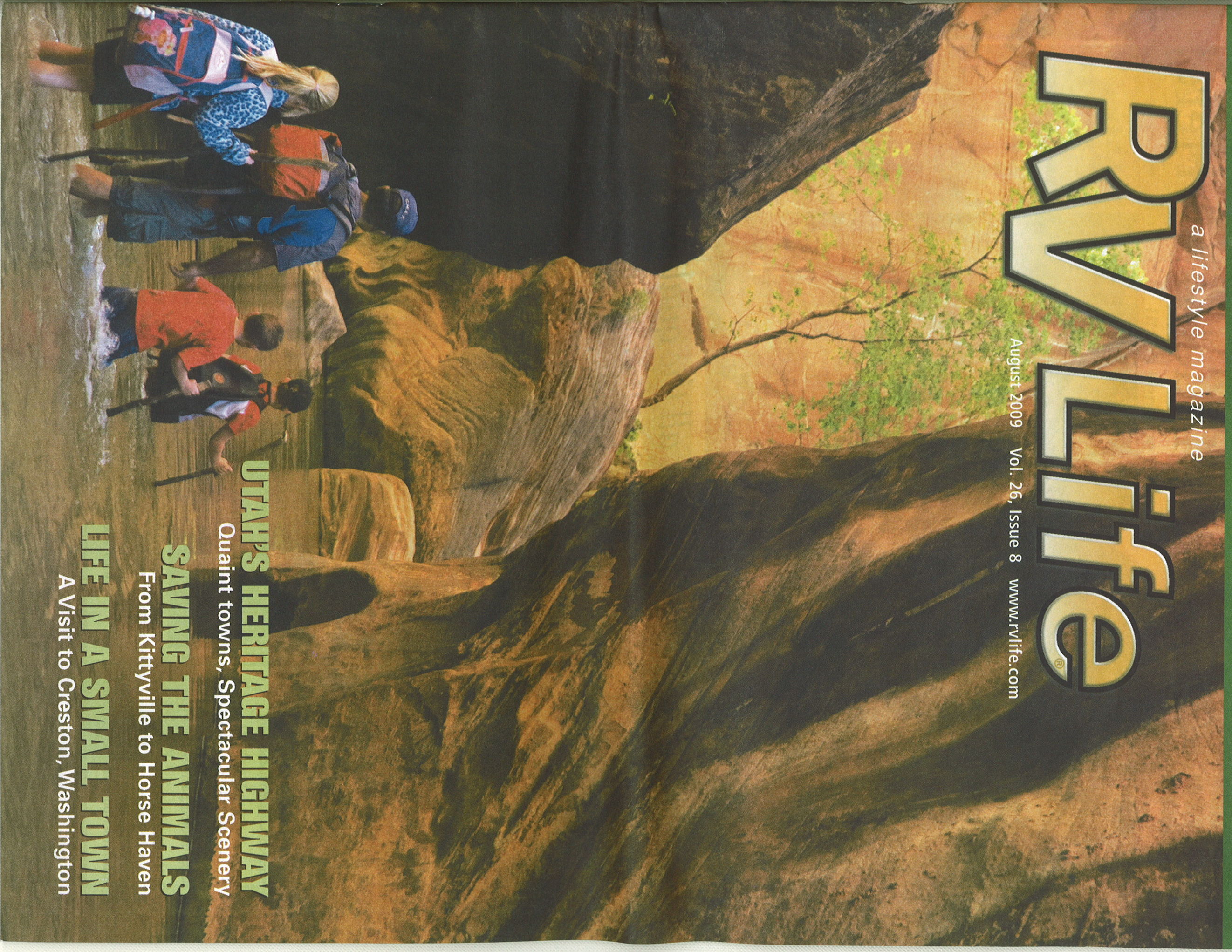
Quaint towns, Spectacular Scenery

SAVING THE ANIMALS

From Kittyville to Horse Haven

LIFE IN A SMALL TOWN

A Visit to Creston, Washington





Exploring Utah's Heritage Highway

(This is the start of a three-part series exploring the Utah Heritage Highway (U.S. 89), which stretches through farmlands, quaint towns and historic sites from Fairview to Kanab. We begin at the northern end of the route in Fairview.)

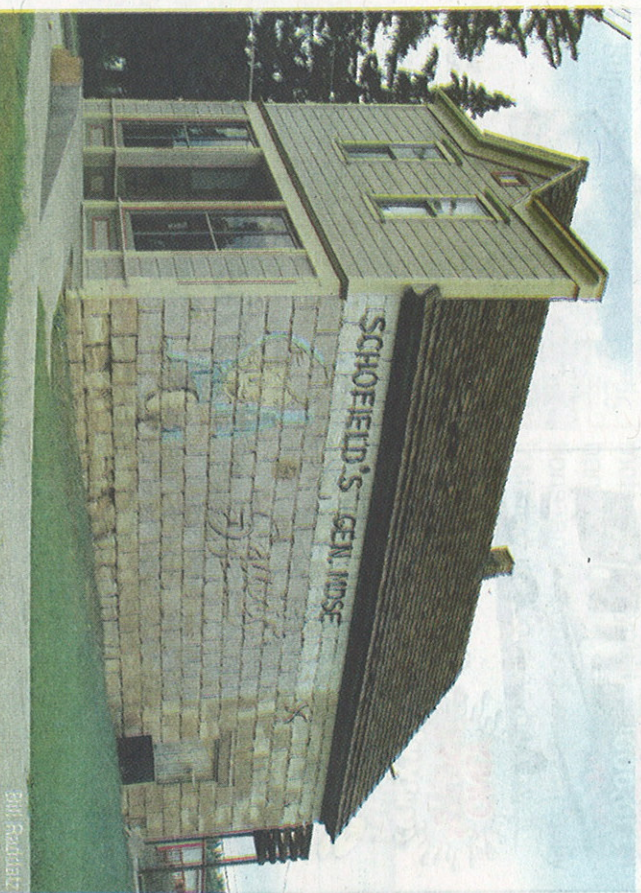
By **Bob Wassom**

Getting out of the fast lane and into the real American West is what Utah Heritage Highway 89 is all about. When you exit the Interstate, you can feel your pulse slow down and your hands lighten up on the wheel. A two-lane trip into history is straight ahead. Along the way you'll encounter everything from pastoral farms to white-capped mountain peaks and red rock canyons. You'll meander through towns with names like Fountain Green and Mt. Pleasant. And you'll discover a pioneer culture that lives on in this region of Central Utah designated as the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area.

From the north, you can reach Highway 89 by exiting Interstate 15 at Spanish Fork, and heading up U.S. Route 50 and 6 until you reach the Manti exit. This is the quickest way to get to Highway 89 and the Sanpete Valley from Salt Lake City and the Wasatch Front. It will take you past the site of the well-known Thistle landslide. This was a notoriously large geologic event that occurred in 1983, during the wettest year in Utah history. The 1,000-foot wide, 200-foot deep, mile-long slide buried the railroad town of Thistle, damming the Spanish Fork River and creating "Lake Thistle."

Twenty-six years later, you can still see an old house partially submerged in a remnant of the lake on the east side of Highway 89. This route will also take you through Fairview, which has a great historical museum, and provides easy access to Skyline Drive, a paved highway that goes up Fairview Canyon, particularly beautiful in the fall.

The other way to get on Highway 89 from the north is to exit I-15 at Nephi and take Highway 132 through Fountain Green and Moroni. Either way, you'll be skirting 11,289-foot Mount Nebo,



Spring City is known for its historic buildings.

the southernmost and highest mountain in the Wasatch Range, named after the biblical Mount Nebo overlooking Israel, which is said to be the place of Moses' death.

Scandinavian Roots

The Utah Heritage Highway's five areas are Little Denmark, Sevier Valley, Headwaters, Under the Rim and the Boulder Mountain Loop. From the north, the first area, Little Denmark is so named because of the Scandinavian pioneers sent here by Mormon leader Brigham Young to settle the area in 1852.

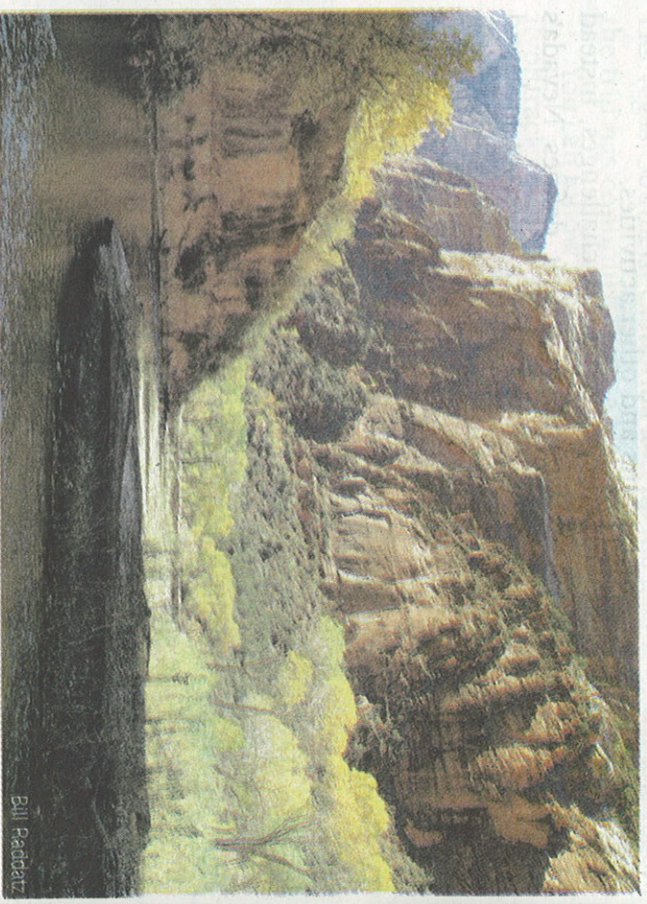
In the towns of Little Denmark, you are surrounded by the influence of these early settlers. Masterful woodworking and stained glass-skills are reflected in many of the marvelous local bed and breakfast inns. You'll soon appreciate the slower speed limits, which allow you to stop frequently to explore these cultural gems. Throughout the region, you'll want to keep a sharp eye out for the many museums, gift shops and artisan studios in every town.

You'll find paintings and sculptures, handcrafted furniture, wind and stringed instruments, pottery, western saddlery, custom boots and more. The area is home to Best of State award-winning artists, artisans and crafters, who convey the Mormon pioneer heritage story with skilled hands and creative minds.

Driving through the region is a visual delight—and challenge. While gazing at snow-capped Mt. Nebo rising above Fountain Green at twilight, I narrowly missed a startled mule deer that bounded in front of my SUV. The eye has many choices: verdant fields, historic homesteads, commanding mountain ranges, even a flock of sheep manuring the front lawn of a tidy home. Keeping an eye on the road requires a bit of discipline.

Mormon Pioneers

Wisely, the locals have carefully preserved and refurbished many of the original buildings, with Mt. Pleasant, Manti and Kanab listed as National Preserve America Communities. The region is



Highway 89 is a gateway to Zion National Park.



Bill Reddatz

The snow-covered Henry Mountains can be seen from Capitol Reef National Park. steeped in the history and lore of the Old West. Mt. Pleasant was initially settled in 1852 by Mormon pioneers, but was abandoned the next year due to Indian raids. The community was resettled in 1859, and the peace treaty ending the Black Hawk War between Mormon settlers and the Indians was signed in Mt. Pleasant in 1872 at what is now the Old Pioneer Museum. The community prospered following the end of hostilities and with the coming of the railroad in 1890.

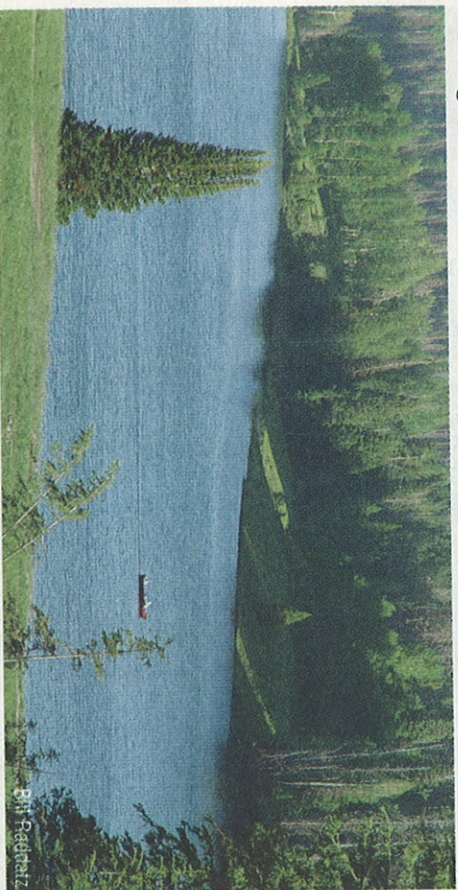
Driving through the vast expanses of untouched land, it is easy to let your imagination wander as you reflect on the grit and stamina of the settlers who were sent to build homes and communities in what to them was a foreign land. I couldn't help but feel a twinge of guilt as I pulled in to a roadside convenience store for a cool drink. But it soon passed, modern road warrior that I am.

The region is not just about history. It's also a gateway to many of Utah's famed national parks including, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef and Zion, and national monuments, including Cedar Breaks and Grand Staircase/Escalante. There are also national recreation areas such as Glen Canyon, just south of Capitol Reef, and state parks, including Anasazi Indian Village, Coral Pink Sand Dunes, and Fremont Indian State Park, to name a few.

As for recreation, you may need to pull a trailer just to bring your toys. River running, ATV adventures, mountain biking, golfing, hiking, world-class fishing, hunting...it's all just outside your RV door. In the northernmost Little Denmark region, the Arapahoe ATV trail near Spring City will take you to an elevation of 10,000 feet along the Skyline Drive, one of the highest roads in the nation. Palisades State Park, near Manti, features tree-shaded RV parking, an 18-hole golf course and a picturesque reservoir for fishing. It's a popular family destination.

Local Celebrations

Depending upon the time of year you decide to visit, there are festivals and events scheduled that celebrate the living stories of the region. In May, Ephraim's Scandinavian Festival remembers



Bill Reddatz

www.rvlife.com

the colorful heritage of the Danish settlers, and in June, Manti hosts the annual Mormon Miracle Pageant, held on the grounds of the region's most notable architectural landmark, the Mormon Manti Temple. July offers everything from Butch Cassidy Days to the Bicknell International Film Festival to a variety of rodeos and Independence Day celebrations. August features such events as the Manti Mountain ATV Tour and the Western Legends Roundup, and September is when the well-known Rocky Mountain ATV Jamboree cranks up in Richfield in the Sevier Valley.

Not to be forgotten, of course is a place to stop and call home...if only for a day or two. From Fairview on the north to Kanab in the south, you'll find plenty of RV resorts and camping spots along this 261-mile stretch of road, with amenities and activities to make your stay more enjoyable. And while there are too many to list here, you can find a complete rundown on one of several websites listed below

While I've driven this route numerous times, it still feels like a new adventure every time I head out. The land is so big, and the history so rich, that it always captures my heart and imagination and inspires me. One thing is for sure, I'll continue finding my way down Highway 89 for some time to come. There are just too many new adventures waiting to be found. Stay tuned as we continue our trip next month. ■

Bob Wassom is a Utah-based freelance writer with a passion for outdoor recreation, travel and tourism. He has never gotten over the fact that in Utah you can get to the mountains faster than you can get to the office.

IF YOU GO

Here are some excellent websites to help you plan your trip:

www.us89society.org
www.mormonpioneerheritage.org
www.utah.travel.com

Meridian Collision Center Inc.

Area's Largest Facility For RV Repairs

GREAT REPAIR IS NEVER AN ACCIDENT

- 3 PAINT BOOTHS
- BENCH SYSTEMS
- EXPERT COLOR MATCHING
- WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT

Your One-Stop Collision Center for Trucks, Buses, RVs, Automobiles and SUVs including Frame & Suspension Alignments. Serving you with your Collision Repair needs at the same location since 1969. We repair any size of collision and provide a Lifetime Warranty on all of our Workmanship



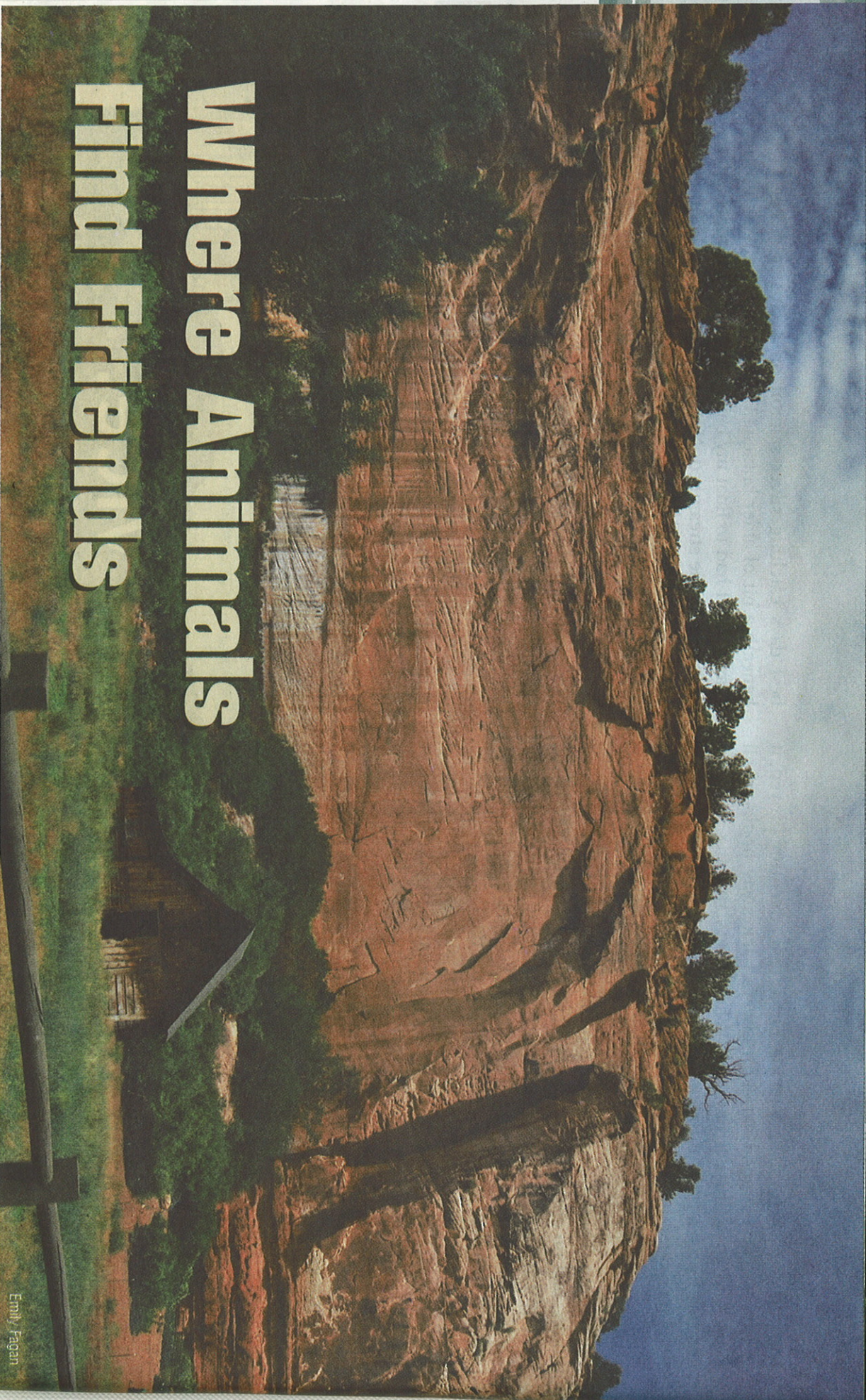
EXPERT REFINISHING, COMPLETE COLLISION REPAIRS, CARS, TRUCKS, MOTORHOMES

15724 Meridian East, Puyallup, WA 98375



253-848-2364 • 800-523-1123

www.meridianscollisioncenter.com



Where Animals Find Friends

By Emily Fagan

Conveniently situated in Utah near three of our most stunning national parks, Kanab is a great place to restock the fridge, pump gas and refill the propane and water tanks in the RV. But in the mad rush to Grand Canyon, Zion National Park and Bryce Canyon, too many people miss the true delights of this charming town of 5,400.

We dashed through town like everyone else, and then, just north of town, we noticed a small sign with a cute drawing of animals below the words "Best Friends Animal Sanctuary." Impulsively, we decided to follow the sign's arrow down a side road. Little did we know we were embarking on a fantastic three-day detour.

After a few moments we found ourselves in a gorgeous red rock canyon that opened up to reveal a beautifully landscaped property. Walking between luscious flowers and admiring a quirky iron bird statue, we arrived at a lily pond hosting an array of hummingbirds and feeders below a large building's tranquil front porch. A woman popped her head out the doorway, and invited us into the visitor's center to watch a movie about the sanctuary and to review a detailed schedule of the many free tours we could take. What a surprise!

all the animals that have naturally ended their days at the shelter. Each plot has a marker, from the biggest cows to the smallest birds, and every animal has a name.

We hopped on a shuttle bus to take the Feathered Friends and Wild Friends tours. As we drove along a winding dirt road, the canyon stretched before us. Cottonwood trees lined the moist bottom of the canyon below, and steep red-rock walls braced the far side. We passed a pair of rescued horses being lovingly groomed by volunteers, and we saw the pasture in the far distance where the farm animals graze in the summer.

The birds living at the Feathered Friends building have it made in the shade: most are hand-carried outside each summer morning (two-by-two in the "Parrot Parade") to their daytime cages that are artfully placed under shade trees near a fountain. Volunteers and visitors can play with the birds or sit peacefully on park benches and listen to their chirps and squawks and occasional "hellos." Each evening they are carried back to their indoor cages. Nearby, the Wild Friends area houses native animals, from ducks to falcons to ferrets, that have been rescued and are being rehabilitated for return to their natural habitat.

Sanctuary Is Huge

Best Friends was started in the 1970s by a group of friends who wanted to create a no-kill animal shelter. Today it sprawls across five square miles of spectacular red rock scenery, and at any one time houses 2,000 animals of all types. The sanctuary is dedicated to adopting out as many animals as possible, and guarantees every creature a home for life. Angels Rest Cemetery holds the remains of

WINDING ROADS® BY JOE SCHMIDT

SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY MAKES RVING SO CONVENIENT WE DECIDED TO GO FOR THE DELUXE PACKAGE!

WITH GPS, CELL PHONE, INTERNET, RADIO & TV?

THOSE TOO!

WWW.JOESCHOONS.COM





A cat lounges on a perch in the Best Friends sanctuary.

Cats and Dogs

On another day we took the Kittyville and Dogtown Common tours. Kittyville is a huge complex of octagon buildings. Each cat run has both an indoor and outdoor area, filled with scratching posts, high perches and private hideaways. Some ten to twenty lucky felines live in each run. When we walked in only a few cats were visible, but as we looked high above us we could see the occasional swishing tail or paw hanging down. Food dishes and cat boxes are placed high up on these perches so the shy cats can keep to themselves and feel safe above the more exuberant kitties that play with the volunteers below.

The din of barking at Dogtown Common was deafening. It was filled to overflowing with dogs rescued from Michael Vick's dog-fighting operation when we visited, and the dogs were in the process of being socialized in preparation for eventual adoption. Like Kittyville, the dogs have enormous indoor/outdoor runs that fan out from octagon-shaped buildings, and they zip through the dog doors at will. They were slowly being introduced to the concepts of affection, gentleness and love by caring volunteers.

Best Friends intervenes in many animal cruelty cases. It rescued 1,600 rabbits from a crazy lady's backyard in Reno, Nevada. Down the road in Pahrump, Nevada, they removed 800 cats from another wacky woman's home. The stories go on and on, and Best Friends stays on top of it all, from the 200 guinea pigs kept in a 10x10-foot kitchen to the many animals left homeless after hurricanes Katrina and Ike.

Help from Volunteers

We were floored by the size and scale of this sanctuary. Several books have been written about the good works of Best Friends, and National Geographic has done a televi-



Joey, a hyacinth macaw, lives in the Parrot Garden.

sion series on Dogtown Common. In the following days we took a tour of the Bunny House and viewed Horse Haven from a distance, and still did not see all there is to see. The sanctuary is eager to receive any help it can from animal lovers of all types, and you can volunteer to work with your favorite animals for anywhere from a few hours to a week or more. There are cabins on the property where volunteers can stay, and a large cafeteria serves food. There are also two RV spaces with full hookups (an overnight fee is charged, even for volunteers). Some volunteers enjoy their "working" vacations so much that they return year after year.

One critical part of the adoption process is the "trial sleepover," where an animal goes home with a volunteer overnight. The objective is to discover any bad behavior or undue nervousness and make sure that the animal is really ready to become a good pet. Several local hotels allow volunteers to bring a pet to their hotel room for a sleepover, and local restaurants allow pets when sitting outside.

My favorite animals are the parrots, and I spent many happy



RV CENTER



SALES • PARTS • SERVICE



PARK MODELS



TRAVEL TRAILERS



TRUCK CAMPERS



FIFTH WHEELS



TENT TRAILERS

NOW TWO LOCATIONS!



RV CENTER

1-5 Exit #36 Kelso/Longview, WA • 800-248-6335
1-5 Exit #9 Vancouver, WA • 877-574-4422
Open 7 Days a Week • visit us online at uneekrv.com



A hike up Squaw Trail leads to an expansive view of Kanab.



Kanab's city park is beautifully landscaped.

We left Best Friends grinning ear to ear, thrilled to have found such a delightful place simply by following an arrow down a side road.

Small Town Sounds

Wondering what else Kanab might have to offer, we wandered through the beautifully landscaped city park one day. The swimming pool and water slide had just opened a month earlier and the water was teeming with kids. Early one morning, from the back of the city park, we hiked up Squaw Trail into the red rock mountains. Scampering along the edge, we rose higher and higher above town until we came out on the crest where an expansive view greeted us. The small town drifted into a massive valley at its edges, and it all seemed very far away. The silence on the mountain was pure, broken just occasionally by the distant whirring of a farmer's tractor, the call of children's voices as they played, and a lone motorcycle rumbling down the main street.

hours with them in the Parrot Garden. Queztl, an African grey, doesn't seem a day over 5, yet at 54 was the same age as my husband, Mark. Tika, an umbrella cockatoo, wanted to be hugged and petted endlessly, while Seppi, the sanctuary's mascot Moluccan cockatoo, was the most spirited. He not only "pens" a monthly newsletter column in the newsletter about the goings-on in the sanctuary, but he gets his fresh perspective by hanging upside down from the roof of his cage. He showed off for me by walking the entire length of his cage roof upside down, stopping in the middle to hang by one leg, flap his wings like a madman, and let out a terrific squawk.

DYNAMIC DIESEL

Service ★ Repair ★ Alignment

9911 Airport Way Snohomish, WA

(360) 799-3985



Alignment Specialties
Fifth Wheel Trailers
Steering & Suspension
Performance Upgrades
Transmission Service
Brake Service

www.DynamicDiesel.com

Kanab is also known as "Little Hollywood," as so many movies were filmed in the area during the golden age of cinema. The Parry Lodge features several rooms lined with autographed photos of former stars, and there are plaques scattered around town commemorating each celebrity whose footprints graced Kanab's red soil. Immersing ourselves a little deeper into this town, we got our hair cut by the local barber. His childhood bedroom window was visible from the barber chair; roots grow deep in this town. The 11th of 14 children, his dad had enjoyed the celluloid side of town, playing bit parts in many movies and even in the TV series *Gunsmoke*. We left Kanab vowing to return again for another visit. The national parks will always beckon, but now we know that a special town awaits in their midst, one that offers far more than just a brief stop for provisions. ■

Emily Fagan and her husband, Mark, have been full-time RVers since May of 2007. You can read about their adventures, including more on their visit to Kanab, Utah, at www.roadlesstraveled.us.

IF YOU GO

For more information on Kanab, Utah, and Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, check out these websites:

- City of Kanab: www.kanab.utah.gov
- Kanab's official tourist site: www.visitkanab.info
- Best Friends Animal Sanctuary: www.bestfriends.org
- Parry Lodge: www.parrylodge.com

Utah's Grand Amphitheater

Donna Ikenberry

By Donna Ikenberry

The drive to Cedar Breaks National Monument along Utah Highway 148 is a beautiful jaunt through meadows and woods, but en route there is not a clue as to what you'll be seeing at the end of the road. Ancient peoples and early explorers must have been amazed as they walked or rode through the high-elevation landscape in southern Utah's mountains, and happened upon the grand amphitheater of multihued rock known today as Cedar Breaks National Monument. I know my husband, Mike, and I fully knew what we'd be seeing, but we were still amazed as we walked to the edge of the rim and peered over it.

The amphitheater at Cedar Breaks is shaped like a massive coliseum, only this basin is filled with hoodoos, fins, stone spires, arches and columns—intricately designed sculptures that have been formed by wind, ice, rain and streams. More than 2,000 feet deep and 3 miles in diameter, the huge bowl is situated along the steep west-facing side of the 10,000-foot-high Markagunt Plateau.

Two trails made exploring the area fun, though there are no trails leading down into the maze of astounding colors. A mixture of iron and manganese grants the rock its potpourri of various shades of red, yellow and purple.

Up High

Cedar Breaks is located at an altitude of more than 10,000 feet,



Scenic views are among the attractions at Cedar Breaks National Monument.

and oxygen, or rather a lack of it, can be a problem at high elevations. Many people tire easily and get winded at high altitudes, so when you arrive you may need to relax and enjoy the scenery for a while. Experts recommend drinking plenty of water and staying well-hydrated. If you get a headache, a pain reliever such as ibuprofen may help. If you have a persistent headache, become nauseated, have a cough, weakness, and/or difficulty sleeping, you should descend until you feel better.

Because of the elevation, some roads in the area have steep grades that may be difficult for large motorhomes. There are two recommended routes into Cedar Breaks. If you're approaching from Panguitch/U.S. Highway 89, take State Highway 143 west from Panguitch to Cedar Breaks National Monument, or take State Highway 14 west to Highway 148. If you're approaching from Cedar City, take State Highway 14 east to Highway 148. The entire length of Highway 148, all six miles of it, is a designated Scenic Byway.

Cedar Breaks Monument was established in 1933 and celebrated its 75th anniversary last August. Although a small preserve, it has plenty to offer. There are glorious wildflower-filled meadows in late June through mid-August and animal life year-round, including about 39 species of mammals and 100 kinds of birds.

The August day we arrived we set up camp and then ventured out for an afternoon of photography and exploring via the Spectra Point Trail. While hiking the trail we stood in awe of ancient bristlecone pines, saw a yellow-bellied marmot napping on a rock overlooking the grand vista, and watched the shadows and light on the formations themselves.

As we gazed at the trees and Cedar Breaks, I thought of the Southern Paiute, the region's original residents, who called this place *u-map-wich*, "the place where the rocks are sliding down all the time." Later, the name was changed to Cedar Breaks for the trees that grow in the area, with "breaks" serving as another term for badlands. The following day, we spent time hiking the two-mile trail to Alpine Pond. We bought a trail guidebook and learned about everything from lichens to a beetle epidemic that is killing many of the trees here and throughout the West. We also learned about some of the animals that live in the area. We found tree bark peeled back and discarded on the ground and wondered if a bear had been exploring the trail before us. We watched as juvenile yellow-bellied marmots rested in the sun on some lofty rocks, gazing

out at the abyss. We searched Alpine Pond for animal life and found mating dragonflies.

Varied Views

After our hike, we went for a drive along the Cedar Breaks Scenic Byway, which leads into and out of the monument. We stopped at all four overlooks and enjoyed the different perspective we got from each one. No two are the same so it's best if you stop at them all.

From the North View lookout we headed east on Highway 143 for 9.5 miles, and then turned right (south) on Mammoth Creek Road (Forest Road 68). We moseyed along the road for a little less than nine miles, and then turned left at the sign for Forest Road 064 and Mammoth Cave (this side trip is only suitable for dinghy vehicles). We followed the dirt road for 1.5 miles, and then turned right on Forest Road 950. It was another mile on dirt to the cave parking area and restrooms.

Mammoth Cave is an ancient lava tube. If you go, be sure to carry two flashlights if you go alone, or one light per person if you go in a group. A gate covers the main entrance to the cave (there are five entrances; the main entrance is the largest tube), but it has an opening to squeeze through. The cave is closed from October through April because it serves as a winter refuge for hibernating Townsend's big-eared bats.

After visiting the cave, we went back to the main road, and headed south for another six miles or so to Utah Highway 14. We made a right (west) on Highway 14 and drove 5.7 miles to a sign for Cascade Falls. From there we turned left on the dirt road to Navajo Lake/North Fork. After less than a half-mile, we turned left again on Forest Road 054, which is another dirt road, and drove another 2.8 miles to the Cascade Falls Trailhead. There are good views from near the parking area, but the trail itself is about a mile long. It winds along a mini-Cedar Breaks with similar orange/pink



Donna Ikenberry

This crater is one of the geological oddities at Cedar Breaks National Monument.

formations. The falls originate from Navajo Lake, but are underground until they emerge through the pink rocks. After our visit to the falls, we drove back to the highway and headed to our campsite for dinner and some relaxation.

The campground at Cedar Breaks National Monument is open on a first-come, first-served basis from June through mid-September. Expect cool daytime temperatures, with highs in the 60s and 70s; nighttime lows dip to the 30s and 40s. The campground has picnic tables, fire grills, water and restrooms. There's an amphitheater for evening programs, and the visitor center offers exhibits, books for sale and information. Call (435) 586-9451 or check out www.nps.gov/cebr for more information. ■

Donna Ikenberry is a writer and photographer who lives in South Fork, Colorado.

The hobby that can pay you back!



- Metal detecting is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the USA!
- The latest technology available yet easy to learn and use.
- More valuable discoveries than any other brand.
- 3 year parts & labor limited warranty.

MINELAB
www.minelab.com

Call now for your FREE Buyer's Guide
or to find your nearest dealer:
888-517-2066
Email: info@minelabusa.com